GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1954
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2016
Fire Accidents in Coal Mines
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Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of fire accidents occurred in various coal mines in the country along with the loss of life and property caused during each of the last three years, company and State-wise;
(b) whether the Government has considered any investigation in this regard;
(c) if so, the details thereof;
(d) the action taken by the Government against the guilty persons, company-wise;
(e) the funds allocated and spent for ensuring the safety and security of workers in these coal mines during the said period, company-wise; and
(f) the steps taken by the Government to check the recurrence of such accidents in future ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL, POWER AND NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a): During last three years, one fatal accident occurred due to mine fire at Rajapur Open Cast Project (OCP) of Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) on 05.08.2015, causing death of a shovel operator. There is no loss of property due to above fire accident.

(b): Yes, investigation has been carried out by BCCL to ascertain the circumstances leading to the said fire accident.

(c): During investigation /enquiry of the said fire accident, it was revealed that the victim marched toward the shovel too close to the face of the hot Over Burden (OB) bench and pushed the bucket directly at the bottom of the bench and it collapsed. The hot OB material fell on the ground, filling the bucket and also hitting the window glass of the operators cabin causing serious burn injury to the victim which ultimately resulted into fatality.Safety measures for avoiding recurrence of similar accident as suggested in the enquiry report are implemented in the mines.

(d): Warning letter were issued to the Manager (Exv.), Sr. Manager (Mining), Foreman In-charge (Elect.), Sr. Mechanic (Maintenance) who were held responsible in Internal Safety Organization enquiry.

(e): Company-wise funds allocated and spent (under capital head) for ensuring safety of workers in coal mines during the said period are given below:
(Amount in Rs Lakh)
Company Year : 2013-14 Year : 2014-15 Year : 2015 -16
Fund Allocated Fund Spent Fund Allocated Fund Spent Fund Allocated Fund Spent
ECL 4316.00 4136.00 7975.00 4598.00 6628.00 5600.00
BCCL 3585.46 1654.00 2524.38 2034.65 2263.98 2008.65
CCL 1225.22 578.84 1162.65 879.40 656.14 500.16
NCL 614.00 5.92 104.00 72.00 1198.00 1316.00
WCL 325.00 376.3 533.00 205.47 1200.00 909.87
SECL 2600.00 950.27 2000.00 105.00 1346.60 350.00
MCL 1141.58 970.34 961.44 826.83 715.32 679.55
NEC 150.67 37.30 72.59 45.79 135.10 57.23
CIL (Total) 13957.93
8708.97
15333.06
8767.14
14143.14 11421.46

(f): The following steps are taken to check the recurrence of such incidents in coal mines:-
1. Digging out of existing fire by opencast method.
2. Trench cutting against fire zone.
3. Nitrogen flushing into Under Ground fire areas.
4. Construction of sectionalization stopping in Under Ground mines.
5. Construction of water pool over fire area.
6. Regular air sampling and its analysis.
7. Regular inspection of mines.
8. Surface sealing and blanketing of area to prevent breathing of air.

9. Cooling of hot strata, quenching of fire and ultimately removal of fire material.
10. The shallow depth Under Ground mines is converted to Open Cast Mine.
11. Rehabilitation and Resettlement of people from the area affected by fire.
12. For special technical assistance, BCCL takes help/expert opinion from Central Institute of Mining and Fuel Research, Indian School of Mines and Central Mine Planning and Design Institute for dealing /extinguishing of fire.

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